

VZCZCXRO3953
PP RUEHDE RUEHDIR
DE RUEHMK #0430 1781445
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 261445Z JUN 08
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7954
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0235
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RHEVAKS/COMUSNAVCENT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000430

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

BAGHDAD FOR AMBASSADOR ERELI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/26/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KISL](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: GOB MOVES AGAINST SECTARIAN INCITEMENT

REF: MANAMA 420

Classified By: CDA Christopher Henzel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (U) Summary: In response to last week's spike in Sunni-Shi'a tensions (reftel), the GOB created a committee to monitor and combat sectarian
2. (U) Last week's sectarian flare-up prompted the King to call for national unity and calm (reftel). In response, the PM ordered on June 22 t
3. (SBU) The panel's first act on June 23 was to announce that it would block access on Batelco's server to three websites: Awaal.net, Muntada
4. (U) Taking their cue from the King's call for unity, human rights activists and political parties - even self-proclaimed liberals like the
5. (SBU) Media reported comments from Abdulla Al Derazi, Secretary General of Bahrain Human Rights Society, praising the creation of the monit
6. (C) Comment: The government has long (ineffectively) blocked web sites on Batelco, but always without fanfare. The very public establishmer
- 7.(C) Comment continued: As reported reftel, Wifaq was able to bring out thousands June 19 for the first of several planned protests against pe